ALNWICK

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1899.

ALNWICK:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY M. SMITH,
BONDGATE STREET.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1899.

ALNWICK, *January 2nd, 1900.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

During the early months of the year 1899 the weather was so little propitious that we can only regard it as having been very moderately favourable to the health of the community. From a period near its commencement, we encountered frequent and even sudden alternations of temperature involving other controlling influences, which were more than inconvenient to many, and rarely conducive to their health and comfort. In the midst of these difficulties, it might be observed, that there were those in considerable numbers among us, who were content (not always necessarily) with being only carelessly observant of the changes, which required for a safe and pleasant experience much persevering attention. When this was withheld, or too sparingly supplied during a lengthened period, the situation became one of painful effort to escape or endure disaster under circumstances otherwise unfavourable, and this did nothing towards maintaining the moderate sanitary advantage of the previous year, or that tended to uphold the ability of the Town to dispense with any judicious attempt to effect its further improvement. When at a later period greater liberty was obtained for weakly people to wander harmlessly from home, and ventilate apartments, in some of which noxious exhalations and other impurities had long prevailed over a less exhausting atmosphere, the death rate underwent a change for the better, yet too late in the season to recover the loss we had previously sustained.

Throughout the year, there were registered within the Urban District of Alnwick 167 deaths, of which 91 were males, and 76 females. The number, which includes those at the Public Institutions is 54 above that of the previous year, and if divided into two parts, each of which represents the share of it which belongs to half of the time under review, we shall find that they are respectively 101 and 66, and that the earlier six months have a proportion of deaths which exceeds that of the later ones by a number as large as 35.

Returning to the annual aggregate, 50 of the deaths were of

Infants under five years of age, and of these 29 died within the first year of life (6 of them before they had attained the age of six months, and 16 without reaching half that age. Sixty-four persons at the time of death had arrived at the age of 60, and of these 10 lived till they were 65, 30 over 70, 16 over 80, and 1 beyond the age of 90. A comparison of these figures with those of the year 1898 shows an increase of 52 in the general total, and of 23 in the Infants under 5 years of age, and of 12 persons over the age of 65.

In continuation of last year's statement respecting the localities in which disease and other causes of illness had a fatal termination, I supply the following information to the same effect as it is derived from the Registry of Deaths.

LIST OF DEATHS.

Locality.	Date of Death.	Age.	Sex.	Cause of Death.
Allison Place	Feb. 11	44	F	Phthisis.
Alnwick	March 15	40	M	Suicide.
Do.	Feb. 18	77	M	Natural causes.
Do.	Dec. 19	82	F	Exhaustion.
Alnwick Moor	Jan. 9	6 wks.	F	Malnutrition.
Do.	Jan. 13	7 wks.	M	Asthenia.
Do.	April 1	29	F	Phthisis.
Do.	May 31	43	F	Measles, Broncho-Pneu.
Do.	May 19	6	M	Do.
Do.	Sept. 7	56	F	Cancer of Womb.
Do.	Oct 10	7 wks.	F	General debility.
Do.	Oct. 14	7 wks.	M	Do.
Do.	Dec. 16	17	M	Phthisis Pulmonary.
Alndyke	May 16	2	M	Measles, Broncho-Pneu.
Alnwick Castle ...	Jan. 2	88	M	Gouty Cystitis.
Angel Inn Yard ..	Nov. 2	43	M	Phthisis.
Aydon Garden	Jan 17	45	F	Disease of Heart.
Alnwick	Feb. 18	77	M	Natural causes.
Bailiffgate	March 29	76	F	Bronchitis.
Do.	Oct. 4	77	F	Epilepsy.
Bellevue	March 21	68	M	Gastro-Enteritis.
Bondgate	Jan. 7	84	F	Senile decay.
Do.	Jan 10	2 mo.	M	Epilepsy.
Do.	March 8	36	M	Pneumonia.
Do.	March 22	79	M	Do.
Do.	May 21	1	M	Measles, Broncho-Pneu.
Do.	Aug. 17	56	F	Fatty Heart.
Do.	Oct. 26	78	F	Malignant dis. of Liver.
Bondgate Without ...	Feb. 1	75	M	Cardiac Asthenia.
Bondgate Within ...	April 31	31	M	Phthisis.
Bow Alley	Oct. 12	79	F	Cerebral Hœmorrhage.
Brewery Cottage ...	Oct. 22	59	M	Meningitis.
Bridge Street	June 8	75	F	Heart dis. Bronch Ch.
Do.	Sept. 22	81	M	Degeneration of Kidney
Castle Stables	March 9	56	F	Broncho-Pneumonia,
Canongate	May 12	58	F	Apoplexy.
Do.	Nov. 7	56	F	Septic Pneumonia.
Chapel Lane	April 6	59	M	Delirium tremens.
Clayport	Feb. 11	7 mo.	F	Spina Bifida.
Do.	March 1	76	M	Natural causes.
Do.	March 28	6 mo.	M	Marasmus.

Locality.	Date of Death	Age.	Sex.	Cause of Death.
Clayport	April 20	74	M	Senile decay.
Do.	April 28	2	M	Pneumonia.
Do.	May 31	5	M	Tubercular Meningitis.
Do.	July 13	82	F	Intestinal Cancer.
Do.	Aug. 20	8 mo.	F	Broncho-Pneumonia.
Do.	Sept. 6	30	M	Cerebral Hœmorrhage.
Do.	Sept. 23	3 mo.	M	Marasmus.
Clayport Bank Top ...	Oct. 25	5 mo	F	Infantile cholera.
Do. ...	March 23	58	M	Heart disease.
Correction House Lane	April 14	11 mo.	M	Measles, Pneumonia.
Do. ...	May 17	3 wks.	F	Marasmus.
Do. ...	July 4	26	M	Phthisis.
Do. ...	Oct. 20	61	F	Heart disease.
Do. ...	Sept. 3	2	M	Gastro-Enteritis.
Do. ...	Nov. 10	43	M	Epilepsy.
Crag View	Sept. 28	60	M	Carcinoma.
Craster Place	July 4	76	F	Cancer of Breast.
Dispensary St.	May 24	1	F	Measles, Bronchitis.
Do.	May 5	5	M	Do. Broncho-Pneu.
Do.	Aug. 10	69	F	Tertiary Syphilis.
Do.	Nov. 12	40	M	Cerebral Meningitis.
Dove Cot Lane	Feb. 26	75	M	Malig. dis. of Mouth.
Duke Street	Apr. 8	54	F	Cancer of Liver.
Do.	May 23	64	F	Tumour of Liver.
Do.	Dec 22	20 mo.	M	Tubercular Meningitis.
East Parade	April 6		M	
Fenkle Street	Jan 19	4	M	Whooping Cough.
Fleece Inn Yard ..	April 24	29	M	Phthisis.
Gas Works	Sept. 28	2 mo.	F	Marasmus.
Hotspur Street ...	June 12	15 mo.	M	Measles, Broncho-Pneu.
Hotspur Place	Jan. 4	18 mo.	F	Diphtheria.
Do.	May 18	10mo.	M	Measles, Broncho-Pneu,
Do.	Aug. 26	26	F	Phthisis.
Do.	Sept. 5	11 wks.	M	Marasmus.
Hospital	Feb. 1	3	M	Pneumonia.
Howick Street	Jan. 10	87	M	Senility.
Do.	Feb. 18	73	F	Heart disease.
Do.	Aug. 2	95	M	Old age.
Do.	Dec. 3	27	F	Cerebral Hœmorrhage.
Infirmary	June 13	15	F	Fistula, Perforation.
Do.	July 9	52	F	Accident.
Lisburn St, ...	Dec. 31	22 mo.	F	Tonsilitis.
Do.	Jan. 19	11 mo.	F	Nephritis Pnemonia.
Lovaine Place	Nov. 23	18	M	Phthisis.
Market Place	Nov. 7	24	M	Phthisis.
Narrowgate	Feb. 21	63	M	Bright's disease.
Do.	Feb. 28	42	F	Influenza Pneumonia.
Do.	May 16	29	F	Phthisis.
Do.	April 12	24	M	Caries of Sacro-IliacBo.
Painter Hill	Feb. 12	2	M	Tubercul. Meningitis.
Pant Hall	Oct. 22	47	F	Pleurisy.
Park Farm	July 22	46	M	Dis. of Iliac Joint.
Pasture House	Do.	74	M	Hemplagia
Percy Street	March 26	87	F	Senile decay.
Do.	July 18	67	M	Bronchitis.
Do.	Dec. 5	4 hrs.	F	Locomotor Ataxy.
Pottergate	Jan. 31	17 mo.	M	Asthma.
Do.	Feb. 13	82	F	Pneumonia.
Do.	April 17	80	F	Ch. Bronchitis.
Do.	Oct. 29	44	F	Heart disease.
Do.	Dec. 13	68	M	Bronchitis.
Pottergate New Row ...	May 19	2	F	Pneumonia.
Do. ...	July 31	66	M	Phthisis.

Locality.	Date of Death.	Age.	Sex.	Cause of Death.
Pottergate New Row ...	Nov. 6	21	F	Natural causes.
Do. ...	Nov. 28	70	F	Heart disease.
Prudhoe Court	March 11	25 days	M	Dispepsia.
Prudhoe Street	March 4	71	M	Cardiac disease.
Do.	June 22	55	M	Albuminuria.
Do.	Dec. 5	86	F	Senile decay.
Ravenslaw	Feb. 20	77	M	Chronic Cystitis.
Reigham Cottage ...	July 8	2	M	Pneumonia.
Roxburgh Place ...	May 13	52	F	Bronchitis.
Do. ...	May 20	71	F	Cancer of Stomach.
Shilbottle Road ...	April 29	35	F	Exposure.
Shiel's Yard	Sept. 1	6 wks.	F	Marasmus.
Do	Sept. 14	5 mo.	F	Do.
Stamp's Yard	May 22	3	F	Measles, Broncho-Pneu.
Do.	July 27	1 mo.	M	Bronchitis.
Do.	Nov. 29	11 mo.	F	Broncho-Pneumonia.
St. Michael's Lane ...	June 21	62	F	Chronic Bronchitis.
Stoney Hills	April 21	81	M	Cystitis.
Stoup Hill	April 3	20	M	Tuberculosis.
Summerhill	Sept. 11	74	M	Gout, Grave's disease.
Do.	Dec. 11	75	F	Hernia
Swansfield	June 15	67	M	Heart disease.
Do.	Nov. 20	71	M	Do.
Tower Lane	Feb. 15	8 mo.	M	Gastric Catarrh.
Do.	Feb. 9	2 mo.	M	General debility.
Do.	April 28	58	F	Phthisis.
Do.	May 15	1	F	Measles, Broncho-Pneu.
Do.	June 5	2	F	Chronic Diarrhœa.
Do.	June 16	2	F	Measles, Broncho-Pneu.
Do.	June 27	11 mo.	M	Do.
Do.	Aug. 6	4 mo.	F	Convulsions.
Turk's Head Yard ...	June 26	28	F	Confinement Anœmia.
Union Court	Jan. 18	68	M	Senile decay.
Do.	May 21	69	M	Heart disease.
Waggon Way Road ...	Nov. 19	10	M	Hip Joint disease.
Walkergate	Feb. 12	55	F	Heart disease.
Do.	April 5	6	M	Pneumonia.
Do.	June 10	60	M	Heart disease.
Windy Edge	Jan. 2	1hour	M	Prematurity.
Workhouse	Jan. 11	50	M	Phthisis.
Do.	Feb. 1	72	F	Cancer of Breast.
Do.	Feb. 9	79	M	Senile decay.
Do.	Feb. 14	81	M	Do.
Do.	Feb. 21	78	M	Apoplexy.
Do.	Feb. 23	74	F	Senile decay.
Do.	March 1	77	M	Do.
Do.	Feb. 28	44	F	Accident.
Do.	May 21	72	M	Epilepsy.
Do.	May 12	81	F	Senile decay.
Do.	May 18	65	M	Cerebral softening.
Do.	June 5	53	M	Stricture of Æsophagus.
Do.	June 14	70	M	Senile decay.
Do.	June 20	86	M	Do.
Do.	July 14	56	M	Chronic Asthma.
Do.	Aug. 18	87	F	Apoplexy.
Do.	Aug. 20	48	F	Phthisis.
Do.	Sept. 11	73	M	Senile decay.
Do.	Sept. 5	4 mo.	M	Marasmus.
Do.	Sept. 21	61	F	Phthisis.
Do.	Oct. 7	75	M	Gastritis.
Do.	Nov. 5	85	F	Cancer of Breast.
Do.	Nov. 30	4	F	Meningitis.
Do.	Dec. 29	11 days	M	Marasmus.

It was not to be expected that the epidemic of Scarlet Fever, which in the latter half of the year 1898 was largely distributed over the District, and gave occasion for the issue of about 170 notifications, (while omitting all reference to cases of the disease, which were unrecognised or concealed) would come to a sudden termination when another year commenced. It was rather in accordance with its usual course, that after short periods of a nearly total decline, there should occasionally be a fresh outburst of it, even in widely separated localities, and from various causes in the recent epidemic, this has been our experience throughout the year. One death only is attributed to it, though the notifications have amounted to 93.

Measles, if we may jndge by the number of deaths attributed to it, has been in this respect a mnch more formidable disease. In thirteen cases it had a fatal issue. Two things however may be noticed respecting it. The deaths occurred at a season when the weather was particularly unfavourable, and in every instance they were associated with Broncho-Pneumonia, which as a secondary affectiou followed upon a partial recovery from the eruptive stage of the illness. It looks, as if during its prevalence, there had been much disregard of the warning given early in its history with reference to a premature exposure of tender children after an attack though it might not be more than apparently insignificant. This should be borne in mind, and any neglect of it under similar circumstances carefully discouraged.

In addition to the notified cases of disease already referred to, the annual list of them is completed by two cases of Erysipelas, five of Enteric Fever, and two of Continued Fever, in all of which the persons affected passed successfully through their respective illnesses. There were 9 admssions to the Isolation Hospital, all of them children, who (with the exception of two who were removed from a damp and otherwise insanitary room) had caught the infection of Scarlet Fever.

The annual death rate is 24.96 per 1000 of the Population, or without the deaths at thePublic Institutions 20.77.

The Births during the year amounted to 168, the male Infants being 86, and the Females 82. The annual birth rate is 25.11 per 1000 of the Population.

The Water Supply has received a valuable addition by utilizing several small springs at Rugley whose combination aided by a pump and engine made it easier for them to reach the Reservoir. The effect was to increase by 15 gallons a minute the quantity of water available for general use, and avert for another Season, at least, the anxiety which had begun to be felt respecting a scarcity, which disappeared after a Junction had been affected.

It thus became unnecessary to shut off for any great length of time the water from the Town at night,and it is expected that by the easier process of gravitation this quantity, at least of good water may be permanently secured at a moderate cost. It is probable, however, that the movement, though, in a right direction may prove insufficient to meet the full requirment of the situation. Allowance should be made for fires and Seasons of drought, whose extent and recurrence cannot be calculated and in this connection the advantage of additional springs and an increase of storage should not be overlooked nor is there a dearth of other motives for making a liberal provision. There is a claim for consideration which arises out of the large demand which must follow the erection and occupation of houses recently built, and of others for which eligible sites are being opened out with special advantage as to prospect, health and convenience, and so in every way likely to prove attractive.

At the commencement of last year, there was left from the preceding one six workmen's dwellings to be completed out of the 31 cottages for the erection of which on the waggon way road the present Duke of Northumberland employed an association, to whom he entrusted the funds necessary for their construction according to a design approved by him. Everything connected with them has now been accomplished, and the whole are fully occupied, and accounted pleasant and satisfactory.

Moreover we have in immediate prospect about 20 new workmen's Cottages, which the North Eastern Railway Co. purpose building for the families of men in their employment, and such similar dwellings as may be erected in substitution or excess of the house accommodation to be demolished on the south side of Clayport, and the two other areas which have been condemned, as well as the obsolete and insanitary structures scattered elsewhere over the District.

The South Eastern Main Sewer commenced during the year, has been completed up to a point near the metal bridge on the south road, where it must enter on the ground of the North Eastern Railway Co., with whom a settlement for compensation has previouslyto be effected. It throws out of use a number of cesspools, which when few could only be superseded at a disproportionate cost. As the detached Villa residences for which they existed multiplied on the Alnmouth road, and the large sewage tanks for the Town have been constructed, greater facilities were obtained for dispensing with them advantageously on reasonable terms, and it has latterly become increasingly necessary to apply a more effectual remedy to the nuisance which has occasionally been experienced in connectien with an overflow or excessive accumulation. It must be acknowledged however that the Canongate scheme, which was associated with

it in 1898 is still only under consideration, and must submit to many corrections before it can be carried out.

I may mention that the other works of Sewerage, which have been completed are chiefly those which correspond in extent with the new Swansfield Park Road, and the new extension of Prudhoe Street to the Station.

The area which in 1898 was selected out of three which had been pointed out for re-construction and re-arrangement with a view to the improvement of the workmen's dwellings is the one on the south side of Clayport, situated westward above Tower Lane. Progress was so far advanced that the proposed plan had been submitted to, and received the sanction of the Local Government Board. Good expectation was thus afforded that no time would be lost on its early accomplishment. In this however we have been disappointed. No complaint is made of any want of care in devising it, or of difficulty in its execution. With very little hesitation, it obtained the unanimous approval of the Council, and was doubtless undertaken, as it was intended, for the general benefit of the Town. This view of its object was shared by most of the Proprietors of the land needed for the new buildings to be erected in place of those, whose removal was contemplated, and these readily accepted the terms of purchase offered in accordance with what was considered a fair interpretation of its prevailing value. It was found difficult however to obtain the immediate consent of all interested parties to the views which had been generally accepted, and much time was lost in an endeavour to promote some unity of purpose. The delay is much to be regretted, and the more so, that a new public building forms part of the scheme, which had been temporarily set aside. We have only one public lodging house in the Town, and its compliance with the Bye-laws is far from exact, while the accommodation in it is insufficient. No doubt, therefore, exists that a better supply is one of urgent need. Yet the effort thus made to open up the Town has not been wholly fruitless. Such indeed was the confidence that the scheme, though temporarily blocked, would shortly be carried out, that owners of land on the route to be adopted, lost no time in commencing of their own accord, at its eastern extremity the construction of a road through it, a chief intention of which was when the matter in dispute was settled to complete the connection between Clayport and the Station. It is an arrangement which offers many advantages, and its full extent may be roughly estimated at 790 yards, divisible into three parts, of which the central one, 235 yards long, consists of two short continuous streets, needing little or no alteration, but without any convenient outlet at either end till utilized in the way proposed. The portion eastward of it connects Prudhoe street with the Railway Station, and in this section 250 out of 310 yards of the new roadway

have been completed, while the division westward terminates the thoroughfare by a junction of Lisburn street with Clayport through the Garden ground contiguous to the condemned area under consideration, the length required for this latter extension being 240 yards.

This may suffice for an explanation of what looks dilatory in the past, but it is a matter for congratulation that we have no longer to maintain a waiting attitude.

Before the close of the year, the announcement reaches us of an amicable arrangement between the contending parties, so that when the usual preliminary proceedings have been concluded no further interruption is expected before the work is commenced.

I append the usual report of the Inspector, whose services continue to be satisfactory.

Notwithstanding that some matters remain for accomplishment, which should have formed part of the year's achievements, it is some compensation to be able to say that an activity has prevailed in the efforts of the Council fairly and efficiently to carry out the work and that while the condemned areas have not been transformed, a preparatory step has been taken in that direction at the other end of the Town, which should make manifest the advantage obtainable by completing the scheme not only in improving the workmens' dwellings, but in facilitating traffic, and otherwise contributing to the health and convenience of the community.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. F. EASTON, M.D.

Report of Inspector of Nuisances.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICE,

GREEN BAT, ALNWICK,

2nd January, 1900.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

SIR,

I beg to submit a summary of work done in the way of Sanitation during the year 1899.

Number of Notices issued, both formal and informal, for the abatement of various nuisances	233
Total number of Nuisances abated	323
Number remaining on the books in progress and under notice	10
Number of Water Closets repaired	70
„ „ Cleansed from Obstruction ...	50
„ New Water Closets erected	2
„ Drains requiring opening and cleansing from Obstruction	44
„ Drains requiring relaying, repairs, or otherwise improving	19
„ Drains not efficiently trapped	14
„ Smoke tested	24
„ Backyards Cemented out or repaired ...	5
„ Premises New Spouted, or repaired ...	18
„ Rooms disinfected	50
„ Public Schools disinfected	2
„ Miscellaneous nuisances arising from various Causes	25

PUBLIC BAKEHOUSES.

These eight in number, have been periodically inspected and found clean and in good condition.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1891.

There are 51 workshops and workrooms at present on the list, they have all been inspected during the past year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS' ORDER, 1883, 1885.

The number of persons registered as Cowkeepers and purveyors of Milk is 35, Improvements have been effected in some of the Cowsheds during the past year.

DANIEL WATERS,
Assoc. San. Institute,
Inspector of Nuisances.